



US Army Corps  
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Pittsburgh District

# News Release

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Contact: Karen L. Auer, 412-395-7106

[Karen.L.Auer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Karen.L.Auer@usace.army.mil)

## **New Vessel to Bear Employee's Name**

PITTSBURGH – The Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will honor an employee Wednesday, June 14, when they affix his name to a vessel that will ply Pittsburgh's Three Rivers.

The towboat *EVANICK* will be christened and named after George Evanick, Jr., an outstanding Inland River Towboat Master and First Class Pilot with the Maintenance Branch, Operations Division, who died July 14, 2003, at the age of 73. Joanne Evanick will participate in the christening ceremony for the vessel to be named in honor of her husband.

Evanick, a seasoned and experienced Riverboat Master and Pilot, began his federal career with the Corps of Engineers in March 1983. He brought with him 35 years of valuable experience as an Inland River Towboat Master and First Class Pilot navigating the Ohio, Monongahela, Allegheny and Kanawha Rivers with LTV Steel, formerly Jones & Laughlin. In the private sector, Evanick acquired his knowledge, experience and river savvy piloting coal-burning sternwheel steamboats, and later diesel towboats, under all possible river conditions. Friends and co-workers recall he often said that he "...began working on the rivers when boats were made of wood and men were made of steel."

Prior to his civilian tenure on the inland rivers, Evanick served in the U. S. Navy for four years during the Korean War, aboard the *USS ROCHESTER*. His combined military, private and public sector time serving on board our Nation's vessels totals an astounding 58 years.

During two decades with the Pittsburgh District, Evanick played a crucial role in leading his crew to respond to such major local disasters as the Election Day Flood of November 1985, the New Year's Day Flood of 1990 and the January and July floods of 1996. He also commanded and navigated the District Fleet in response to numerous river emergencies such as barge breakaways, sunken barges, oil and chemical spills, navigation accidents, towboat fires and structural/equipment failures at navigation locks and dams.

The *M/V EVANICK* is 124 feet long, 34 feet wide, with a draft of six and one-half feet. The twin screw, 3,000 horsepower *M/V EVANICK* will be used for towing and tending the District's Maintenance Branch Plant Unit on Pittsburgh's Three Rivers. The Plant Unit – consisting of a service barge (floating machine shop, weld shop, carpenter shop, electric shop and 900 KW of power generating capability), two floating cranes (65-ton and 250-ton lifting capacities), a workboat and up to nine flat-deck cargo barges and two hopper barges – is used to perform major maintenance and emergency repairs to 23 navigation locks and dams within the Pittsburgh District's 328 miles of navigable waterways.

Wednesday's ceremony will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center Boat Dock, 1000 Fort Duquesne Boulevard (at 10<sup>th</sup> Street), at 10:00 a.m.